

**Lori Barrow**  
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January 14, 2002

Attorney General Ashcroft  
U.S. Dept. of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

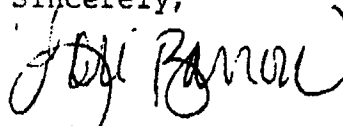
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The purpose of this letter is to express my support of the agreement reached between the Dept. of Justice and Microsoft. Microsoft has been at the forefront of the tech industry for some time. Through innovation and a commitment to quality, Microsoft has created its position in the field. I find it ridiculous that Microsoft has been punished for its success.

With this noted, I do believe that the resolution reached in the settlement is beneficial. It allows Microsoft to return its focus to the IT world and leave at least some of its legal troubles behind. The settlement comes with a cost though. Microsoft will now be required to disclose the interfaces of its operating system. This will give other companies the opportunity to write more efficient programs. Users will be able to reconfigure the Windows system to their liking. Microsoft must also license Windows to all computer makers at the same rate. All of this is detailed in the agreement.

Microsoft will continue to be a leader in the IT field. This settlement is beneficial in that it allows them to return to work. Please enact the settlement quickly.

Sincerely,

  
Lori Barrow